



*Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*

# Clinician Advocates for Climate Solutions in Virginia

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

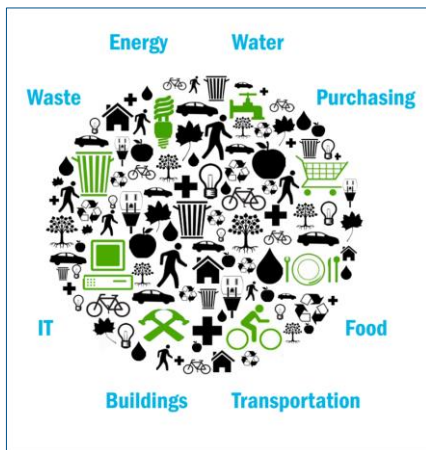
Website: [virginiaclinicians.org](http://virginiaclinicians.org)  
Email: [info@virginiaclinicians.org](mailto:info@virginiaclinicians.org)

# 2015- A new health issue emerges in Virginia




## Medical Society of Virginia Resolution 2016-*PASSED!*

## Virginia AAP supports Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, 2015



## Protecting Human Health in a Changing Climate

Whereas, a warming world poses significant risks to human health, from: extreme weather events; heat illness; air pollution; allergies; food and water contamination; infectious disease; and...

American Academy of Pediatrics   
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Virginia Chapter

TO: Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee  
FROM: Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
DATE: January 28, 2015

RE: Support for SB 1428

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am requesting your support for Senate Bill 1428 (McEachin), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Commonwealth Resilience Fund established. This legislation introduces vital protection for children from the impacts of rising global temperatures, worsening storms and rising sea levels.

Global warming is a major threat to the health, safety and security of children in Virginia. As global temperatures rise, many other major changes are occurring, including melting glaciers, worsening storms and rising sea levels. These fundamental changes ultimately impact human health, and children are at particularly high risk.

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[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Virginia Chapter  
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Secretary-Treasurer  
Dr. L. Chung, MD, FAAP  
Immediate Past President  
Dr. C. Rees, MD, MBA, FAAP



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

# Healthcare Climate Leadership



## Medical Society Consortium on Climate Change and Health

*American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Medical Association (AMA), American Thoracic Society (ATS), American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), and the National Medical Association (NMA)*

- *American Academy of Pediatrics*-Policy Statement and Tech Report
- *Healthcare Without Harm*- Healthcare Climate Council
- *American College of Physicians* Policy Statement and Toolkit
- *American Public Health Association* -2017 Year of Climate Change and Public Health
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*-Climate Ready Cities and States Initiative
- *U.S. Global Change Research Program*- Climate and Health Report 2016



# Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

## Mission

*Clinician leaders advocating for climate change solutions that protect the health of our patients and communities.*

## Vision

*Clinicians have the knowledge and mission to play a vital role in protecting the health and prosperity of Virginia's families and communities from climate change. VCCA brings this critical perspective into climate-related policymaking in our state.*

## Pillars

*Education, Advocacy and Community Outreach.*

# Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

## Education

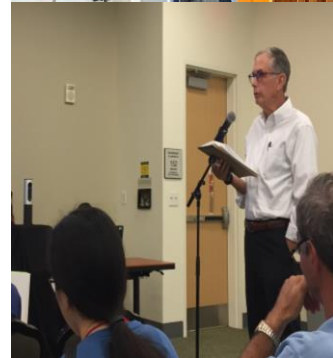
*Delivering conferences and presentations on climate and health at VA medical centers since 2017.*

## Advocacy

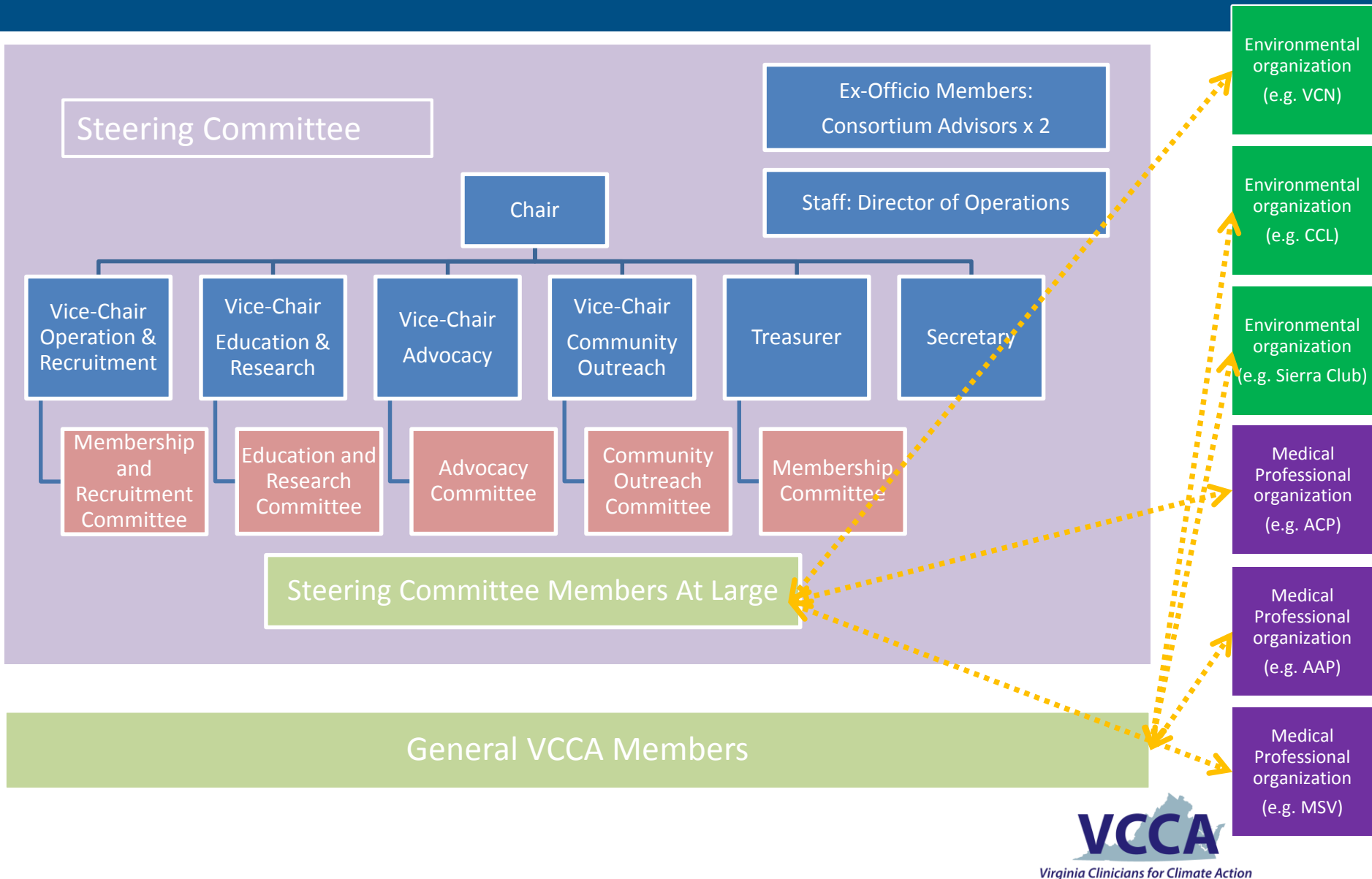
*Supporting climate solutions that protect our patients by protecting the climate.*

## Community Outreach

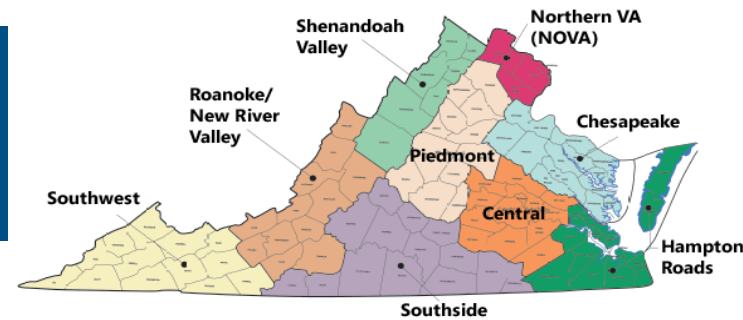
*Informing Virginians about why climate solutions protect the people and places they love.*



# Organization



# Membership



- Clinicians = all inclusive of front line health care providers: Physicians, Nurses, Advanced Practice Providers (NPs and PAs), Clinical Pharmacists, Therapists, Case Managers, etc.
- Over 300 general members
- ~15 members in the Steering Committee
- Geographically concentrated in Northern Virginia and Richmond, with goal to have a stronger presence throughout the state, like **Roanoke!!**



# Building a Coalition

## Hospitals



## Virginia Chapter



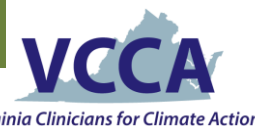
## Medical Societies



## Organizations



## Universities





# Education



## **April 2017**

Conference, Inova Fairfax Hospital  
*Climate Change and Health in Virginia*

## **January 2018**

VCU and UVA Schools of Medicine  
*Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

## **February 2018**

Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Richmond  
*Health in a Changing Climate*  
*Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*

## **March 2018**

Inova Fairfax Hospital  
*Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Nitin Damle, MD*

## **May 2018**

Practical Strategies to Promote Student Health, Fishersville VA  
*Lecture on Environmental Health & Climate Change,*  
*Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP*

## **September 2018**

Conference, Bon Secours Health System, Portsmouth  
*Health in a Changing Climate*  
*Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*

## **January 2019**

Inova Fairfax Hospital  
*Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Homan Wai, MD, FACP*

## **February 2019**

Winchester Hospital  
*Grand Rounds, Jerome Paulson, MD, FAAP*

## **May 2019**

Inova Health System  
*Ask the Expert Lecture, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

## **October 2019**

Carilion Children's Hospital  
*Pediatric Grand Rounds, Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP*

## **October 2019**

Conference, Carilion Medical Center with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Roanoke  
*Health in a Changing Climate*  
*Understanding the Impacts on Virginians*



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

# Education

## Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

### *Clinician Climate Challenge*

A campaign to engage health professionals around climate change and health in Virginia.



# Advocacy

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly Advocacy Day January 23, 2020



## 2018-Present

### Supporting Virginia joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Written comments, Op Eds, hearings and press events

*"My patients are the manual laborers who work outside during the hot summer, they're the elderly, children and low income people who feel the effects of climate change the most,"*

*Dr. Janet Eddy with Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action, said.*

## November 2018

Steering Committee member Gail Bush, BS  
, RRT-NPS appointed to Virginia Air Board

## March 2019

VCCA table at VA ACP Annual Meeting



## April 2019-Present

Resolution to Medical Society of Virginia to  
support worker heat safety standard

# Community Outreach

## THE ROANOKE TIMES

### Wai: Climate change is making us sicker

Dr. Homan Wai Wai is an Internal Medicine physician at Inova Fairfax Hospital and serves on the Steering Committee of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action. Aug 9, 2019

### Rafiq: Clean power repeal threatens Virginians' health

Nila Rafiq Rafiq is an internist in Falls Church and an Assistant Professor at George Washington University and Georgetown University and a member of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.  
Dec 11, 2017



**'Like a sunburn on your lungs': how does the climate crisis impact health?**



Illustration: Sorry Rows



 MORNING CONSULT

OPINION

### Our Children Need Clean Car Standards to Protect Their Health

BY TIMOTHY O'MARA  
September 28, 2018

## AAP Voices

### Time to Step Up Efforts to Protect Children from Climate Change

Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP  
September 25, 2019



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action





*Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*



# Virginia Department of Health C-3

✧ *Climate Change Committee*

✧ *Launched in January 2019*

✧ *Summit held June 2019*

✧ *Plan expected in early 2020*

**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VDH) IS WORKING TO ADDRESS

**The health impacts of climate change as a result of:**



- Governor Northam's Executive Order 24 instructing state agencies to help increase statewide resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather
- Governor Northam's Executive Order 29 establishing the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice
- Governor Northam's Executive Order 22 establishing the Governor's Conservation Cabinet
- Many Virginians indicating to State Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver during his 2018 Listening Tour that climate change is a topic the health department should focus on.

IN RESPONSE, VDH ESTABLISHED

**The Climate Change Committee, or C-3, which has been tasked with:**



- Identifying health-related impacts of climate change in Virginia
- Identifying vulnerable populations
- Reviewing and analyzing relevant data, programs, and research in collaboration with internal and external partners
- Review the health impacts related to sea level rise, air temperature and quality, water temperature and quality, and extreme weather events
- Developing a draft *Public Health Impacts of Climate Change Response Plan* for review in early 2020

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/commissioner/administration/climate-and-health/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/commissioner/administration/climate-and-health/)



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

# VIRGINIA ELECTION DAY

What's at stake  
for KIDS HEALTH?

Expansion of **mental health** services

Injury prevention & **firearm safety**

Funding for **nutritional programs**

**Environmental** protections

**Reducing vaping** and tobacco access

Protection of **essential health benefits**

**Medicaid** eligibility

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**[vote.elections.virginia.gov](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov)**

**Register by OCT. 15th**

**Virginia Chapter**

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



# The Power of Clinician Collaboration



# Keep In Touch!

## Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP

- Pediatrician, Pediatric Associates of Alexandria
- Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, VCU School of Medicine, Inova Campus
- Chair and Founder, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

*[sahdoot@viriniaclinicians.org](mailto:sahdoot@viriniaclinicians.org)*







*Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*

Clinician Advocates for  
Climate Solutions in Virginia

*Making a difference in the Commonwealth*

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